

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration provided in the present application.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are now present in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

Amendments have been made to the Abstract of the Disclosure, specification and claims 1-6, 8 and 9. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

The Examiner has not acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document. Acknowledgment thereof by the Examiner in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 14, 2005, and for providing Applicant with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 or PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they allegedly contain reference characters not mentioned in the description.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicant submits that reference numerals 32' and 34' are mentioned on page 7, line 14 and that the paragraph beginning on page 12 at line 23 has been amended to mention reference numeral 86. Accordingly, no drawing corrections are needed and reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure because of the use of legal phraseology and length greater than 150 words.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicant has amended the Abstract of the Disclosure to delete the legal phraseology and make it less than 150 words. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 8, and has suggested changes to overcome the objection. Applicant has amended the claims in order to place the claims in better form. The claim amendments are not being made in response to any statutory requirement for patentability, and have not been narrowed in scope. Instead, the claims have been amended merely to recite the subject matter therein more clearly. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

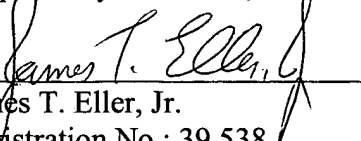
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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